

REMARKS

The Final Office Action rejects Claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 28 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for containing subject matter which is not described in the specification in a way that conveys to a person skilled in the art that the inventor was in possession of the invention as the time of filing. The Applicant, respectfully, directs the Examiner's attention to page 11, lines 7-19 of the specification to the present invention wherein the means for adjusting the first pressure threshold of said touch pad comprises means for selecting the first pressure threshold from a predetermined set of discrete pressure thresholds are clearly described as threshold positions 28a, 28b and 28c. Therefore, the subject matter of Claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 28 is clearly conveyed in a manner the a person skilled in the art would be aware that the inventor was in possession of the invention as the time of filing. Therefore, this rejection is, respectfully traversed. The applicant, respectfully, points out that there is no rejection of Claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 28 based upon the prior art. Accordingly, Claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 28 are believed to be allowable.

The Final Office Action rejects Claims 1-11 and 14-20, 23, 26 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0118175A1, in the name of Liebenow et al. (hereinafter referred to as Liebenow et al.) in view of U.S. Patent. No. 6,414,671, issued in the name of Gillespie et al. (hereinafter referred to as Gillespie et al.). The Applicant, respectfully, asserts that the combination of Gillespie et al. with Liebenow et al. does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the rejected claims. Specifically, the combination of Liebenow et al. with Gillespie et al. does not provide any teaching or suggestion of the "means for adjusting a first pressure threshold of said touch pad, below which said display is dormant and above which finger positions on said touch pad are displayed" as defined by the rejected claims.

Regarding claims 1, 3 and 11, the Examiner admits that Liebenow et al. do not disclose "means for adjusting a first pressure threshold of said touch pad, below which said display is dormant and above which finger positions on said touch pad are displayed". The Examiner states that Liebenow et al. imply that distinguishing between different levels of pressure in order to prevent inadvertent actuation of a key device at paragraph 37. The Applicant, respectfully, points out that paragraph 37 of Liebenow et al. disclose a resistive touch pad suitable for generating an analog signal proportional to the pressure applied by the users' finger. Liebenow et al. teach that the users' fingertips can rest upon the touch pad without actuating the key and an

increase in pressure registers as a key press. Liebenow et al. do not disclose or suggest a pressure threshold. Liebenow et al. teach that one state is a resting state and another is activated by detecting an increase in pressure from the resting state, no threshold is mentioned. Moreover, it is clear that Liebenow et al. do not teach or suggest a means for adjusting a pressure threshold. The Applicant, respectfully, asserts that there can be no suggestion of means for adjusting a pressure threshold if no pressure threshold is mentioned or suggested.

The Examiner states that Gillespie et al. at col. 23, lines 40-47 a finger is present if the pressure exceeds a suitable threshold value which may be adjusted to suit the tastes of the individual user. The Applicant respectfully points out that while Gillespie et al. may teach a threshold pressure can be experimentally selected or selected to suit the tastes of the individual user. Gillespie et al. do not teach "means for adjusting a first pressure threshold of said touch pad, below which said display is dormant and above which finger positions on said touch pad are displayed" as defined by the rejected claims. Therefore, since neither Liebenow et al. nor Gillespie et al. teach or suggest "means for adjusting a first pressure threshold of said touch pad, below which said display is dormant and above which finger positions on said touch pad are displayed", the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejected claims are allowable over Liebenow et al. in view of Gillespie et al.

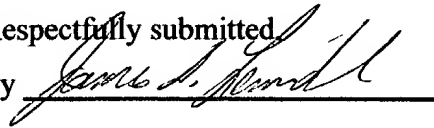
Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 14-20, 23, 26 and 29 depend from, either directly or indirectly, and further narrow and define Claims 1, 3 and 11. Therefore, Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 14-20, 23, 26 and 29 are also believed to be allowable over Liebenow et al. in view of Gillespie et al.

Applicant is not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. 1.99.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, with such allowance being, respectfully, requested.

Respectfully submitted

By


James D. Leimbach
Patent Attorney, Reg. No. 34,374

**Please address all correspondence
for this case to:**

Michael E. Belk
Senior Intellectual Property Counsel
Philips Intellectual Property & Standards
Philips Electronics N.A. Corp.
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 USA
914-333-9643

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date
with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope
addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on: November 15, 2004
(Mailing Date)

Signature:


Person Signing: James D. Leimbach